

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01452 111735Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-10 DRC-01 /084 W
----- 095692

R 111631Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6079

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1452

LONDON POUCH BELFAST

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJ: LITTLE INTEREST IN UK ELECTIONS

1. NI ELECTION RESULTS ARE NOT COMPLETELY IN AS THIS IS DRAFTED.
(COUNT IS SLOWER THAN IN OTHER UK AREAS.) DUBLIN PAPERS AND
POLITICIANS ALL THINK THEY KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT, HOWEVER, SO REACTION
IS DETERMINED BEFORE EVENT -- UNLESS THERE IS AN UNLIKELY LAST-MINUTE
SURPRISE. EVERYONE EXPECTS HARD-LINE "LOYALISTS" (UNDER UUUC LABEL)
TO WIN AT LEAST NINE OR TEN SEATS OF TWELVE BEING CONTESTED. ACCORD-
ING TO DUBLIN COMMENTATORS, THIS PROVES NOTHING EXCEPT WHAT WAS
ALREADY KNOWN: THAT NI PROTESTANT MODERATES ARE NOT YET STRONG
ENOUGH TO MAKE A LASTING POLITICAL SOLUTION POSSIBLE. AFTER HEARING
EARLY FIGURES, FONMIN FITZGERALD COMMENTED ON RADIO THAT CATHOLIC
VOTE HAD SWUNG AWAY FROM REPUBLICAN EXTREMES TOWARD MODERATE SDLP,
WHILE PROTESTANT VOTE HAD SWUNG TOWARD HARD-LINERS. ONLY APPARENT
EXCEPTION TO THIS TREND WAS ENOCH POWELL, WHO WON HIS SEAT, BUT
WITHOUT THE EXPECTED IMPRESSIVE MAJORITY.

2. BRITISH ELECTION RESULTS ARE ALREADY CLEAR BUT ARE ALSO
AROUSING LITTLE DUBLIN INTEREST. IRISH THINK THE ELECTION HAD
LITTLE TO DO WITH ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO THEM. MANY WOULD HAVE
PREFERRED HEATH VICTORY BECAUSE HE IS CONSIDERED MORE FIRM ON NI AND
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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 01452 111735Z

ON EC MEMBERSHIP. ONE RESPECTED COMMENTATOR IN "IRISH TIMES" WRITES:

"IT IS BRUTALLY CLEAR THAT THE NORTH COMES VERY LOW ON LABOUR'S
PRIORITY LIST; HAROLD WILSON WILL FOLLOW THE LINE OF LEAST ESIS-
TANCE AND -- IN IN SPITE OF THE OCCASIONAL RHETORICAL FLOURISH --
HAS NEITHER THE INTEREST NOR THE WILL TO BECOME EMBROILED IN THE
NORTHERN PROBLEM AND NO SOLUTIONS CAN BE EXPECTED FROM WEST-
MINSTER."
MOORE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DUBLIN01452
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740290-0975
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741053/aaaabtcg.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <10 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LITTLE INTEREST IN UK ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005